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EXAMINER

TAYLOR, JOSHUA D

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Art Unit: 2426

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed July 2, 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. On pages 10-11, Applicant argues:

With respect to the tertiary cited reference, Shaya actually discloses: "... Yet another hybrid data processing model that may be employed combines collaborative and content-based filtering. FIG. 11 illustrates a *cascade* of collaborative **and content-based** filters 1100 utilized in certain embodiments of the invention. Cascade 1100 represents a novel approach to exploiting both social and content information that is particularly well suited to the present invention. With this cascaded architecture 1100, the collaborative filter 1102 is tuned to output predicted ratings 1103 for many products based on a current consumer's characterization profile 1107 and the knowledge regarding all consumers and **products contained** in database 1101. Ratings outputs 1103 then form the input to content-based filter 1104, which selects products from those inputs for which the product features stored in **the product** features database 1105 match well with the user's aesthetic choices contained in the personal profile information. The products selected by **content-based filter** 1104 comprise the final recommendations 1106 output by the product recommendation engine." (Para. [0164]; Fig. 11) In essence, Shaya merely teaches using a single cascade of filters 1100 for recommending products, e.g., for online shopping of consumer goods, **not audio-video content** via a signal transmission, to consumers, wherein **the product** information is gleaned from a **database** 1101, not via a **signal transmission from** a primary service provider **as in the presently claimed invention**.

In contrast to Knudson, even in view of Ahmad, and even in further view of Shaya, the present invention comprises "a *plurality* of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the *discrete selectable audio/visual programs*, the *plurality* of cascading filters being **customizable for at least one user, wherein the plurality** of cascading filters *simultaneously considers content across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content[.]*" Shaya cannot simultaneously consider content across the first plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content and the second plurality of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content by using only one cascade of filters. The single cascade of filters of Shaya cannot accomplish the result emanating from simultaneous consideration of content by a plurality of cascading filters as claimed in the present invention. In other words, Shaya processes the signals in series while the present invention processes the signals in parallel. As such, the present invention uses a distinct filter architecture involving a *plurality* of cascading filters, rather than merely a single cascade, in order to *simultaneously consider content, wherein the content comprises a plurality* of discrete selectable items of *audio/video content*, wherein a *first plurality* of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content differ from a *second plurality* of the discrete selectable items of audio/video content *with respect to a primary transmission service provider*.

Examiner disagrees with Applicant's conclusion. First, it is necessary to try and establish what is meant by the phrase "a plurality of cascading filters." Applicant appears to interpret said phrase to mean several groups of filters, each group consisting of several cascading filters. Examiner

Art Unit: 2426

suggests that said phrase could mean one group of filters consisting of several cascading filters.

In support of Examiner's interpretation, Examiner points Applicant to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/520,752, from which the instant case claims priority. In section III, the Provisional Application states, inter alia, "The system consists of cascading filters that can filter out and in TV shows based on their attributes." This is the only mention of the word "cascading" in any of the relevant Applications upon which the instant Applicant claims priority or has incorporated by reference. Because the word "plurality" does not appear in the cited section, Examiner's interpretation of the phrase "a plurality of cascading filters" as meaning one group of filters consisting of several cascading filters is consistent with the background of the words in the disclosure. Accordingly, Applicant's arguments regarding the lack of teaching in Shaya are rendered moot.

Applicant's remaining arguments refer to a similar argument as the one addressed above, and thus are also rendered moot.

/Josh Taylor/

Examiner, Art Unit 2426